What is claimed is:

1   1.   A system, comprising:

2   a user interaction detector to produce a signal

3   indicative of whether a user is interacting with the

4   system;

5   a user proximity detector to determine whether a user

6   is proximate to the system and to produce a signal

7   indicative of user proximity, the user proximity detector

8   separate from and responsive to the user interaction

9   detector;

10   a power management module to manage power in the

11   system, the power management module responsive to the

12   signal indicative of user proximity; and

13   a connector shaped and configured to receive a battery

14   to provide power to the system, the connector in

15   communication with the power management module.

16

17   2.   The system of claim 1, wherein the user proximity

18   detector is inactive when the signal indicative of whether

19   a user is interacting with the system indicates that a user

20   is interacting with the system.

21

22   3.   The system of claim 1, wherein the user

23 interaction detector comprises circuitry to determine

24 whether a user is interacting with the system via at least

25 one of a mouse and a keyboard.

26

27   4.   The system of claim 1, wherein the user proximity

28 detector comprises a camera.

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30   5.   The system of claim 4, wherein the camera

31 comprises active pixel sensors.

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33   6.   The system of claim 1, wherein the power

34 management module is to reduce system power consumption in

35 response to the signal indicative of user proximity

36 indicating that a user is not proximate to the system.

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38   7.   The system of claim 6, wherein the system further

39 includes a display, and wherein the power management module

40 is to reduce system power consumption by reducing an amount

41 of power to the display.

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43   8.   The system of claim 1, wherein the system is a

44 mobile computing system.

45

46   9.   A power control device for a computer,

47   comprising:

48   user interaction circuitry to produce a signal

49   indicative of whether a user is interacting with the

50   computer;

51   a user proximity detector separate from the user

52   interaction circuitry and responsive to the signal

53   indicative of whether a user is interacting with the

54   computer, the user proximity detector to produce a signal

55   indicative of user proximity to the computer; and

56   a power control module to manage power in the

57   computer, the power management module responsive to the

58   signal indicative of user proximity.

59

60   10.   The device of claim 9, wherein the user proximity

61   detector is inactive when the signal indicative of whether

62   a user is interacting with the computer indicates that a

63   user is interacting with the computer.

64

65   11.   The device of claim 9, wherein the user proximity

66   detector is active immediately after the signal indicative

67   of whether a user is interacting with the computer

68   indicates that a user is not interacting with the computer.

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70   12.   The device of claim 9, wherein the user proximity

71 detector is active after the signal indicative of whether a

72 user is interacting with the computer indicates that a user

73 is not interacting with the computer for a time equal to a

74 user inactivity time.

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76   13.   The device of claim 12, wherein the user

77 inactivity time is user selectable.

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79   14.   The device of claim 9, wherein the user proximity

80 detector comprises a camera.

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82   15.   The device of claim 14, wherein the user

83 proximity detector further comprises an image processor to

84 receive image information from the camera and further to

85 process the image information.

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